

House Resolution No. 2789

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State religious institutions that admirably improve the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their spiritual endeavors; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church of Ironton, Missouri, was established in 1858 with eleven members and the Reverend Jesse Richardson Pratt serving as the first pastor; and

Whereas, brought into existence one year after Iron County was organized and one year before Ironton was incorporated, First Baptist Church ministered to the spiritual needs of the surrounding Arcadia Valley; and

Whereas, on December 6, 1858, the Reverend Jesse Pratt and trustees John M. Carty and Elvis Harrison secured a deed to property from the Iron County Court and named the resulting church as the Ironton Missionary Baptist Church; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church has been housed in several buildings down through the years, the first was the "Little White Church" near the corner of West Reynolds and North Shepherd streets, the second was the "Old Brick Church" erected about 1873 on the north side of Madison Street, the third was the "Frame Church" built in 1904 at the corner of Knob and Madison streets, and the current church that was dedicated in 1963 and on whose property resides the kiln used to fire the brick used in constructing the "Old Brick Church"; and

Whereas, when First Baptist Church moved to a new location, other churches such as the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and the Assembly of God Church utilized the old facilities, and the "Old Brick Church" is even still in use as a private residence; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church has been guided by a series of pastors who have faithfully kept the church missionary in belief and practice; and

Whereas, First Baptist Church will celebrate its One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary through historical displays, special music, recognitions, a pageant, and a basket dinner on Sunday, June 29, 2008:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with First Baptist Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they celebrate the One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of their religious institution; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of First Baptist Church of Ironton, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative J.C. Kuessner
District No. 152

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2789, adopted May 7, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker